

# Manhattan Is For Show-Down On "L" Rentals

Refuses to Pay a Cent for Improvements and Interborough Plea for Lower Charge Brings No Action

I.R.T. to Default Payments

Mayor Orders Inquiry Into B.R.T. Subway Contracts in Effort to Break Them

Despite informal conferences and exchanges of views between the Interborough Rapid Transit Company and the Manhattan Elevated Railway stockholders no progress has been made, it became apparent yesterday, in the matter of bringing about a reduction in the lease terms which compel the Interborough to pay the Manhattan stockholders \$4,200,000 a year.

To the informal suggestion by the Interborough that the Manhattan company lower the yearly rental or take back its unprofitable lines and pay the Interborough \$30,000,000 for third track and extensions and other improvements, the Manhattan has made it clear to the Interborough that it will not pay a cent.

Meanwhile, it was learned yesterday the Interborough is unyielding in its determination to default on the quarterly payment of \$1,000,000, long past due, and postponed until April 30, nor will the Interborough pay rental for the quarter ending the last day of this month.

**Manhattan Ready for Show-Down**  
George Wellborn Murray, counsel to the Manhattan stockholders' committee, of which Alvin W. Krech is chairman, has left town on a two weeks' vacation, indicating that the Manhattan company is going to wait for the "show-down" on April 1, when the rentals are due. The application of the American Brake Shoe and Foundry Company for a receiver for the Interborough is up for a hearing before Judge Mayer on March 30.

James L. Quackenbush told the Transit Commission one day last week that if the Interborough was unable at an early date to obtain concessions from the Manhattan, he would be compelled to "face the inevitable" and ask Judge Mayer to consider a receivership.

The Transit Commission, in pursuance of its "one big company" plan for the entire city, will continue its service hearing to-day and Frank Hedley, president of the Interborough, will be on the stand. Chairman McNamara has made it clear that no matter what the Interborough may do about its lease contract with the Manhattan, the commission will insist upon a much better service on the Interborough, with a cessation of congestion during the non-rush hours. The Interborough people have given notice that any service order involving increased net earnings means a receivership.

**Coney Line Bonds Scaled Down**  
Attention was called yesterday by a shareholder of the Coney Island and Brooklyn system (made up of the old DeKalb and Franklin Avenue and 5th Street lines) that while the company was able to show that its net earnings were three times its fixed bond interest charges, the Transit Commission's appraisal had scaled down the \$6,000,000 of bonds to \$4,000,000 as a tentative fair figure.

The murmurings from the companies indicate a growing opposition to the commission's general plan. Anticipating that the Interborough Company proposes to test the legality of the proposed bonding system of the commission for the "one big company" project, the commission is planning to get quick action in the state courts on the major points that will be raised. Mr. Quackenbush wired Governor Miller yesterday calling attention to

the possible danger of surrendering the sovereign power of the state by signing the transit amendments. He told the Governor that a brief would follow his telegram.

One of the commissioners said last night that even if there should be a receivership for the Interborough, such a proceeding would not necessarily interfere with the working out of the commission's plan for uniting the system in receivership and can discontinue an unprofitable line, but the practical supervision of the lines in a receivership are under the jurisdiction of the commission.

**City to Investigate B. R. T. Contracts**  
In view of the report that the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company may sue the city for a large sum of money "as compensation for delays in construction" under their part of the dual subway contracts, Mayor Hylan instructed Corporation Counsel O'Brien yesterday to have a "thorough and exhaustive investigation made to determine whether the city has any ground to have these contracts set aside because of fraud practiced upon the city or the fraudulent overcharging of the city at the time these contracts were made or other violations of these contracts."

His letter to the Corporation Counsel and the Mayor declared that the B. R. T. was probably of bad faith. While these threats lack substance, the Mayor said, it made it necessary for the city to look into the circumstances of the contracts.

"One item stands out as a gross illustration of how the city was overreached by the B. R. T. in the dual subway contracts," said the Mayor. "Bear in mind that the city was represented in these negotiations by Mr. McNamara, now chairman of the State Transit Commission, and by the Public Service Commission. The contract with the B. R. T. provided that the railroad company should advance \$13,500,000 in cash. It permitted the B. R. T. to turn over to the city of New York the \$13,500,000, in lieu of \$1,000,000 of the right of way in the cut at Thirty-sixth Street, South Brooklyn. It appears that the cost of the land for this cut was \$95,000 and the cost of construction work was \$165,000, making a total of \$260,000. For this the B. R. T. subsidiary acquired outright the ownership in fee of the cut and all the surrounding property and improvements not embraced in the cut. The city got only a mere easement—that is, the right to run trains over part of this land—and was charged therefor \$1,000,000.

"This incident in high finance at the expense of the City of New York, thanks to Mr. McNamara, has been capitalized by the B. R. T. The city was misled in this single deal with the B. R. T. of about \$739,000, plus 6 per cent interest annually on \$1,000,000 charged against operating expenses, during the entire life of this contract. There are no doubt, many similar high finance incidents contained in this B. R. T. contract, and I urge you to forget them out with the purpose in mind of determining whether they furnish a basis for legal action to set aside the contract."

The Interborough has been directed by the Transit Commission to install an additional escalator at the Park Avenue station of its West Side line. The development of traffic at this station warrants the installation of an escalator of greater capacity.

**Governor Assures City Of 5-Cent Fare or Less**

**Disagrees With Quackenbush View That Amendments Take Power From Transit Board**

ALBANY, March 21.—Transit fares in New York City will remain either at five cents or fall below that figure, Governor Miller said to-day.

The Governor, when he made this declaration, was discussing statements of James L. Quackenbush, counsel for the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, who said that the Simpson-Jesse amendments to the transit act deprived the transit commission of its general control over rates and clouded certain rail securities.

During the discussion, in which the Governor said that he did not believe Mr. Quackenbush's opinion was warranted by the facts, he was asked if there was any likelihood in the near

future of an increased fare rate in New York City.

"I do not see any immediate prospect of a fare increase," replied the Governor.

"Is there any prospect of any increased fare?"

"I am not a prophet. The commission reports that conditions are improving."

"Which means that fares will remain at five cents?"

The Governor smiled at his interviewer as he replied slowly:

"Which, that is, less."

Commenting on the statements of Mr. Quackenbush regarding the effect of the amendments in the Simpson-Jesse bill, which is now before him, the Governor said:

"I doubt if the amendments will do these things. I have not examined the bill since it was passed and I do not know just how it comes to me. Certain amendments were submitted to me which appeared to be all right. I think they were prepared by the transit commission itself."

"Under this last amendment," the Governor was asked, "would the commission still have power to put into effect the so-called flexible fare plan?"

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York police to-day to help locate her oldest son, Gordon, obtained a divorce from Graham Duffield, an insurance broker, last month. She was given custody of Gordon, seventeen years old, and Graham Jr., fifteen years old. During the divorce trial Mrs. Duffield testified that her husband had been too friendly with other women.

In 1913 the Duffields were in the public eye when they deserted their home in a fashionable section of Chicago following receipt of anonymous letters which are said to have caused domestic trouble.

**Jeritza to Make Last Appearance on Thursday**

"Snegovrochka"—"The Snow Maiden"—as a special performance will open the last week but three of the Metropolitan Opera season next Monday afternoon with Mmes. Bori, D'Arle, Delaunoy, Howard and Messrs. Diaz, Meader, Chalmers and Rother, Mr. Bodanzky conducting. "Mancos" will be sung on Monday evening by Mmes. Farrar and Messrs. Chalmers, Scotti and Whitehill, Mr. Hasselmanns conducting.

Other operas next week will be: "L'Espre" on Wednesday evening, with Mmes. Muzio and Messrs. Chalmers, Scotti and Whitehill, Mr. Hasselmanns conducting.

"Tosca" as a matinee on Thursday, with Mmes. Jeritza (her last appearance this season) and Messrs. Chalmers and Scotti, Mr. Moranzoni conducting.

"Louise," on Thursday evening, with Mmes. Farrar and Betat and Messrs. Harold and Rother, Mr. Hasselmanns conducting.

"Forza del Destino" on Friday evening, with Mmes. Ponselle, Gordon and Messrs. Chalmers, Scotti and Whitehill, Mr. Hasselmanns conducting.

"Costi fan Tutte" will have its second performance at next week's Saturday matinee with the same cast as at the premiere on this Friday evening—Mmes. Easton, Peralta and Bori and Messrs. Meader, De Luca and Didur, Mr. Bodanzky conducting.

"Lucia" will have next week's popular price Saturday night opera, with Mmes. Ottein and Anthony and Messrs. Gigli and Pico, Mr. Pani conducting.

Irwin Tregibay, pianist, will play at next Sunday night's "opera concert." Mmes. Delaunoy, D'Arle, Roselle and Lenka and Messrs. Meader, Sembrak, Schlegel and Martino will sing. The orchestra will be conducted by Mr. Pelletier.

**Kept His Mind Open**

"I went up to Canada at the request of 'The Halifax Herald' in an open frame of mind," he said. "I would have been just as much pleased if the ghost had proved to be a spirit. The tests I applied could have been used just as well for spirits as for human beings. Three of us arrived on the afternoon of March 7 and set up our beds in the McDonald house, which was practically empty. I examined all the visible tokens there were around the place. My suspicions were first roused when I found three kegs of kerosene oil and a small brown bottle containing some of the oil.

This Dr. Prince brought back with him to New York. Another of his observations was that all the burns were at a certain level, none of them being beyond the reach of the five-foot Mary Ellen. The highest burn on a lettered piece of wall paper was 6 feet 6 inches, or within arm's length of the girl.

"I was practically sure by the second day that the fires were lighted by human hands, and by then my attention was fastened on Mary Ellen. 'I had thought of her before I went up there, because in the majority of cases a girl is usually at the bottom of things. I eliminated her foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald, without much trouble. On one occasion, when the father was demonstrating the process of knotting the tails of the cattle, Mary Ellen's hands were unconsciously going through all the motions.

**Calls Her Mentality Low**

One of the things that made me suspect Mary Ellen was the fact that her mentality is so low. She has no sense of responsibility. Her disposition is rather pleasing. She is a happy,

# Private Ghost Hunt Is Begun By Dr. Prince

(Continued from page one)

case interesting from the standpoint of physical research, declaring that the revelations he will shortly make about his own family ghosts will be infinitely more important.

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